

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-14 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. Claims 2, 4, and 10 have been amended to overcome Section 112 rejections or correct typographical errors.

Claims 2, 4, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, in claim 2, it was alleged to be unclear as to where the information was being propagated. In claim 4, the language "to receive updated configuration information to said autodiscovery unit" was indicated to be unclear. In claim 10, it was alleged to be unclear "why the configuration information is collected from telephony devices to be automatically propagate that configuration information back to the telephony devices."

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the configuration information is propagated "to others of said plurality of telephony devices." Claim 4 has been amended to delete redundant language.

With reference to claim 10, applicants note that claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Further, applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the suggestion in the Official Action, configuration information as recited in claim 10 is not propagated "back" to the telephony devices. Instead, certain configuration information is received from certain of the telephony devices. This information may then be provided to *others* of the telephony devices so that, for example, they can use the services of the first devices. Thus, the configuration information is not merely collected and sent back, as the Official Action seems to suggest.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 1-4 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Krishnamurthy et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,389,464 B1 ("Krish"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Krish.

In particular, as noted above, an aspect of the present invention relates to a

configuration system in which configuration information may be received from some units and propagated to others. As described in the Specification, in one embodiment, an Auto-Discovery Unit is provided wherein an administrator may input a series of Internal Protocol (IP) addresses inside which the system exists. The Auto-Discovery Unit steps through the IP addresses testing to determine whether a machine exists at the address. If a machine is found, an exploration process is undertaken wherein attempts are made to contact a Responder Unit on each machine. The Responder Unit accepts configuration information and returns a set of objects describing the hardware and software components of the machine. The Auto-Discovery Unit then stores this information. The process is repeated automatically at scheduled intervals.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended to recite

a server, said server including an auto-discovery unit configured to make a determination of the presence of configurable components associated with said plurality of telephony devices on said network by communicating with said telephony devices, said server further configured to provide a graphical user interface (GUI) based network map of said configurable components, wherein said server is further configured to propagate said configuration information to others of said configurable components;

and claim 10 recites:

automatically determining the presence of configurable components associated with said plurality of telephony devices;
receiving configuration information from said plurality of telephony devices;
automatically propagating said configuration information to others of said plurality of telephony devices at predetermined intervals.

In contrast, Krish appears merely to provide a web interface for performing some configuration functions. Thus, in Krish, a user apparently logs in to the server, pulls up a list of elements, and proceeds to configure them. Krish does not appear to make any determination about the *presence* of configurable components and thereafter propagate configuration information concerning such components to other network entities, as generally recited in the claims at issue. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

Claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Krish. In particular, use of XML format and Java applets were indicated to be obvious. However, as noted above, Krish does not teach, suggest, or imply the

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invention of the base claims.. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Krish likewise does not teach, suggest, or imply the invention of these dependent claims. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,



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MARKED UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A network management system, comprising:
a network;
a plurality of telephony devices coupled to said network; and
a server, said server including an auto-discovery unit configured to make a determination of the presence of configurable components associated with said plurality of telephony devices on said network by communicating with said telephony devices, said server further configured to provide a graphical user interface (GUI) based network map of said configurable components, wherein said server is further configured to [make a determination of configuration information] ~~propagate said configuration information~~ to others of said configurable components.

2. (Amended) A network management system according to Claim 1, said auto-discovery unit configured to automatically make said determination of said presence of said configurable components and propagate said configuration information ~~to said others of said plurality of telephony devices~~ at predetermined intervals.

4. (Amended) A network management system according to Claim 1, said plurality of telephony devices including responder units, said responder units configured to provide said configuration information to said auto-discovery unit and to receive updated configuration information [to said auto-discovery unit and to receive updated configuration information] from said auto-discovery unit.

10. (Amended) A method for managing a network including a plurality of telephony [device] devices, comprising:
automatically determining the presence of configurable components associated with said plurality of telephony devices;
receiving configuration information from said plurality of telephony devices;
automatically propagating said configuration information to others of said plurality of telephony devices at predetermined intervals; and displaying a map of said configurable components.